(c) what steps Government propose to take to implement these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) to (c) The report is under examination of the Government.

Indo-US Project under AIIMS

43. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States Ambassador has recently presented a cheque of Rs. 31 lakhs to the Director of All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi for an Indo-US project;

(b) if so, what are the details of the Indo-US project on which this amount will be spent;

(c) whether Government also propose to share in this project; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) to (d) The all India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi have informed that the Indo-US project has been set up under agreement No. N-411-605 entitled Development and Differentiation of Nervous System Using Monoclonal Antibodies." The total budget of this project is Rs. 63.4 lakhs for five years. The first instalment of Rs. 31.08 lakhs was released to the Director, AIIMS, New Delhi through the US Ambassador in Delhi on 26-3-1990. The project is funded by US India Rupee Fund.

BLINDNESS Among Children

44. SHRI GHUFRAM AZAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMIIY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the news item captioned "30000 kids get blind every day" as reported in the Hindustan Times of the 31st March, 1990;

(b) whether it is a fact that the incidence of eye troubles and defective eyesight among children is the highes in our country;

(c) whether Government propose to adopt any policy to aware the mothers about importance of proper nutrition and timely treatment in case of any eye trouble; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Under the Maternal and Child Health Programme of the Ministry, there is a scheme of Prophylaxis against blindness due to Vitamin 'A' deficiency amongst children of 1—5 age group for which Oral dose of 2 lakh International Units of Vitamin 'A' is given to the above age group of children every six months.

Suggestions to amend Pharmacy Education Regulations

45. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pharmacy Council of India had recommended for amending the Pharmacy Education Regulations regarding the minimum qualifications for admission to Diploma in Pharmacy Course and the duration of the said course; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what are the reasons for the delay in giving approval to the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) and (b) Yes. The Pharmacy Council of India has suggested the following major changes in the existing Education Regulations:—

(i) Duration of the course from one year to two years after 10 plus 2 Course.

(ii) Course contents to be revised and a number of subjects to be added in order to improve the knowledge and skills of the pharmaciests.

(iii) Minimum standard of passing the examination of Diploma to be raised from 40 per cent to 50 per cent.

The proposal is under consideration of the Central Government.

Hathi Committee Report

46. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present position of Hathi Committee Report; and

(b) whether Government propose to take into consideration the recommendations contained in the said report while evolving a new drug policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI BHAJMAN BEHERA): (a) and (b) The recommendations contained in the Hathi Committee Report were taken into consideration while formulating the first Drug Policy in 1978. This policy was reviewed and a set of Measures were announced in December 1986. The current Drug Policy is under review. The experience gained so far in its implementation and the recommendations of Hathi Committee would also be taken into consideration for this purpose.

Purchase of Airbus A-320 aircraft

47. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA:
SHRI YASHWANT SINHA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the Airbus A-320 crash at Bangalore Government still propose to buy the remaining 16 A-320 aircraft as per the contract;

(b) whether Government would consider buying Boeing 757 aircraft as envisaged at one stage;

(c) whether Government would examine the possibility of selling the A-320s already purchased to other countries and buy Boeing 757 instead; and

(d) by when a decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) and (d) The question of taking further delivery of the A-320 aircraft is under consideration.

(b) and (c) At present no such proposal is under consideration.

ONGC'S plan for investment in Tripura

48. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has drawn out a plan for investment of Rs. 743 crores in Tripura during the Eighth Five Year Plan period; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI BHAJMAN BAHERA): (a) and (b) The investment plan of Oil and Natural Gas